

A SECOND 1608/5806.

LETTER

TO

G----- W----- Esq;

Concerning the

Present CONDITION

OF THE

COLLEGE

OF

DUBLIN,

And the late Disturbances that
have been therein.

Printed in the Year MDCCXXXIV.

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A SECOND

LETTER, &c.

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N Obedience to your own Command, and to fulfil my Promise given you in my last; I am to try your Patience by a second Letter, relating to the Affairs of the College of *Dublin*.

In my former, I did consider that, which to me appeared an Original and Fundamental Cause of Mischiefs and Disorders among them; and which, like an ill Constitution in the Body, derived from the Parents, is, perhaps not to be amended.

At the Time, that this College, was founded by Queen *Elizabeth*, there was, I believe, no immediate Prospect of its thriving so much, and arriving at the Condition, in which it hath long since been: Had it then been foreseen, that it would have become a Body so numerous, so entirely separate from the City, and so neglected by the City Magistrates in Cases of Riots; it can hardly be imagined, that the Council of that wise Princess would not have thought of a Remedy for this Evil, by appointing some Power within themselves, that should have been sufficient to have preserved Peace.

But it is now my Business to consider, if there be any other Errors or Neglects among them, that may encrease the Disorders to which their Constitution does expose them. And it seems indeed to be the Opinion of most People, at least it has so appeared for some Time past, that the whole Load ought not to lie on their Constitution, but that they ought in all Reason to bear Part of it themselves.

Among the many Things so loudly complained of, with Regard to the Care taken of the College, there is one which is much spoke of, as the Cause of great Mischief. Night Rolls and Tickets are the Guard of the Boys from Evil; they are the great Wall of Separation from the Vices and Mischiefs of the Town: And to whom are these entrusted? The Dean indeed lays on the Punishment, but it is in the Power of the Porter at the Gate, to excuse whom he pleases, before the Matter comes to the Dean. The Discipline of the younger Scholars, is therefore thus far more in the Hands of the Porter, than of the Provost, and all the Fellows together. If he be negligent or corrupt, a young Man sometimes, especially in Vacation, may find Means to be absent from the College two or three Days in the Week; and this not otherwise to be discovered, than by missing a few Duties, for which a Thousand Excuses may be made: He may lie out of the College, and enjoy what Diversions he can in Town, and yet be returned as sleeping in his own Chamber. That their Gates therefore should be effectually taken Care of, is conceived to be a Point most essential to the good Government of the College; it being in the Power of the Porter there to do more Harm to the Society, especially to
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the younger Part, who should chiefly be considered, than perhaps all the other College Discipline can do Good.

I doubt not but the Provost and Fellows are sensible of this, and take proportionable Care about it; and yet I own I was surpris'd to find, upon enquiring lately how this was ordered, that the Assistants there are hired for four, or five Pounds a Year, the highest, one only excepted, who may have about Twelve, or Fourteen: So that their back Gates, when open, are always, and their great Gates must often be committed, (and a great Part of the Discipline of the College with them) to the Care of Men, hired for about three Pence a Day. Their Head Porter has indeed by his Office, as I am informed, about one Hundred and Twenty or Thirty Pounds a Year clear Profit, all Servants and Expences paid. But He, it seems, is an old Servant, who has long and faithfully served the College, without any Blemish or Objection made to his Fidelity. That he has serv'd them long, is well known; that he has done it with Honesty and Integrity beyond Exception, is, I suppose, known to the Governours of the College at least: It cannot otherwise be supposed in a Trust, where so much is required, that he should have met with that Indulgence, he has long found at their Hands. Had he ever laid himself open to Objections, either in Point of Honesty or Care, it cannot be imagined, he would have been continued and indulged in an Office, where both are so necessary. But *his Merit having been so extraordinary*, he is permitted to entrust his principal Business, the Care of the Gates, to Deputies; whom, it is to be supposed, he is careful to choose, not so much
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for their Readiness to accept the low Hire, at which he procures them, as for their Honesty, Fidelity, and Care. Indulgence to old and faithful Servants, is certainly a most commendable Quality, and one cannot do too much to reward them, *provided always it be consistent with the Duties of the Place.*

There is another Particular, which is much lamented, and which is supposed to produce great Evils in the College: I mean the Streightness of it for Room, thro' the Want of which, a considerable Number of young Men do necessarily lodge abroad. And what makes this Evil the more considerable; This they do generally at a Time, that is most dangerous for them, and for the College; just delivered from the Confinement of School, just beginning their College Race, when it is of the utmost Importance, that they set out happily, and begin their Course aright. As many as are thus placed, are without the Reach of College Discipline in very considerable and essential Points. It is as material, to have the Innocence of our Children secured by their Walls and Inclosures, as to have them well instructed in any Part of their Learning: And I believe most Parents are of my Mind in this Point. Every one knows, what Vices every great Town abounds with; what that unwary Age is most exposed to. If the beardless Youth cannot here delight himself with Horses and with Hounds, he may fall into other Diversions, which come cheap and easy, and with little Inconvenience at first, but draw Consequences after them, that are much to be apprehended. He may, if lodged in Town, be intemperate in what Shape he pleases, and be very se-

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cure from any Disturbance the Visits of his Tutor may give him: And a Youth who has got a Taste of Liberty, and Pleasures of this Kind, should he happen to be afterwards removed into the College, with what Reluctance will he suffer it, and what an uneasy Restraint will he find it to him? He will come with a Mind alienated from its Rules, and with Eyes looking towards the Pleasures, with which he was acquainted. He will first try all his little Arts with his Tutor and his Friends, to prevent his Removal from them; and if disappointed there, will apply his Industry to break thro' his Restraint, and continue his Acquaintance with them. This will expose him to many Inconveniences; Tickets and Night-Rolls He will find a great Bar in his Way: They are, it is true, strict Guards, but he will not fail to try, if possibly there may not be some Way to deceive them: He will consider who are the Guards that watch over them; he will prove, if these are always above Corruption. And suspicious People may perhaps doubt, that a skilful Youth may possibly sometimes, get the better even of those faithful Men, hired at no greater Wages, than four or five Pounds a Year: That he may, for Half a Dozen of Ale, or Half a Crown, or some such powerful Motive, prevail on one of these honest Men, to wink at a little Escape, and even by a settled Pension, to make him his constant Friend. I do take it for granted, they are Men chosen for their Honesty and Integrity, as indeed they ought; but how many must have been tried, before three or four such Men can be found? And fewer than these, every one may clearly see, cannot suffice to guard their Gates, forasmuch as there must be
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some Respite; and it is not to be expected, the same Man should be there constantly on Guard.

Money therefore must be had, as well to defray other Expences, as to secure an Interest at the Gate; so that, if his Friends do not supply him plentifully, his Furniture and his Books must go to Sale. With all this, the College will prove but a very awkward and troublesome Place; the Duties and the Discipline of it will relish ill to a Mind longing after more lively Pleasures; they will be heartily disliked, and with great Sincerity and Freedom abused. All Officers that are to exact any Parts of Duty, will be a Pack of very troublesome, impertinent, conceited People. The Petulance of a young Man, used to the idle Company of the Town, will furnish him with a great Facility and Freedom of Discourse. The Liberty his Governours enjoy in Points, wherein he is restrained, will be termed Licence, and deemed very unfit and unreasonable to be granted to them. In a Word, he will commence a War with the Fellows, and especially with those, who are so troublesome, as to put him in Mind of his Duty. If there be any, who are so indulgent, as to overlook his Negligences, or to pass gently over them, with these perhaps he may be at Peace. But woe be to the Deans and the Provost, and above all to any Man, who is so meddling, as to interfere, where his particular Office does not necessarily oblige him. *His* Windows, at least, will be the Objects of his Resentment, and his Reputation, if by any Means within Reach. And possibly from late Instances, one may think, that something more may be in Danger,

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But I am tedious in this Affair, the ill Consequences of which are so great, and the Governours of the College so sensible of them, that I am well informed they have an Officer on Purpose, a Register of the Chambers, appointed some Years ago, to take particular Care of this Business; that by Means of this Office, and the Provost's Strictness and Resolution herein, great Advances have been made towards Filling every Nook and Cranny in the College; in so much, that many Rooms, which were formerly neglected, and lay waste, have of late been put in Order, and inhabited. By these Means, the Inconvenience is removed, as far as is possible; but the Misfortune, as I have said, is this: Their Buildings are by no Means sufficient for their Numbers. It were to be wished, that they were in a Capacity of remedying this Evil themselves; if they were, I should think, they could not do their College a greater Service, and that no other Device or Project of any kind, ought to turn them aside from remedying this great and crying Distress.

One considerable Benefaction they have indeed lately received; the Lord Bishop of *Clogher* having built them a Printing-House, which, however necessary to an University, they have wanted ever since their Foundation. And this Benefaction, both for its Use, and the † Time in which it was given, will, I suppose, never be forgotten by the College. Were this a Season for them to hope for either Favours of this Kind, whosoever were thus well disposed

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† *This Benefaction was given at a Time when there appeared a remarkable Disposition to speak ill of the College.*

posed towards them, could not, I should think find a more effectual way, of expressing their good Will, than by enabling them to have all their Youth contained within their Walls, and subjected entirely to their College Discipline. This would be a great Step towards setting all Matters right that are amiss: This with a strict Guard of their Gates, would be a great Bar to the Communication of the Youth with the Town. It would remedy a great Part of the Evils arising from their Situation in a great City, and might possibly supply the Place of some wild Projects that have been of late entertained about them.

If you will not quarrel with my want of Method, I would choose to mention here, a Prejudice against the College, that I have often heard insisted on with great Warmth, by many who bear no great good Will to Colleges, and even by some who do. With what Justice you will judge. Here are, say they, Twenty People, set apart for Learning, maintained, endowed, very well provided for by the Publick, who even boast of the great Store of Learning necessary, to find Admittance among them. And what is the Event of all this? What Figure do they make or have they made amongst the Learned? What Works have they produced to do Service to the World, or Honour to their College or themselves? Is it not a plain Case there must be strange Negligence, or Mismanagement in a Society that has subsisted so long and done so little? I remember when I was at your House, You were complaining to one of your Overseers, of a Farm from which you seemed to think you received but little Profit or Advantage; you said that it might well keep your House in Neces-

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saries, and even send some of its Product to Market; that others were supplied so from less Ground, and that therefore there must be some Abuse. To this he answered. Sir, you forget you have a great Breed of young Cattle, who get that Milk, which else might be otherwise applied. This Objection here made to the College, has brought this Passage into my Mind. And if you consider the Time, the Thought, the Trouble, and the Interruption that accompany the Care of Pupils, and the Attendance on College-Duties (ill enough devised) you will judge, there cannot be any great Store of Learning laid up. To obtain this, the Mind must be at Ease, undisturbed by hourly Avocations, that it may have full Scope, and move at Liberty thro' the Paths of Knowledge; whereas in their College, every Day is circumscribed by certain Duties appointed at very inconvenient Hours; the Time free from these is subject to numberless Interruptions: Besides this, many College-Exercises, from which no Standing nor Degree exempts them, oblige them frequently to turn aside from any favourite Pursuit they may have in View. By these Means, that happy Disposition, which should be watched and indulged in Reading, as well as in writing, is often damped and repressed; and he, who has missed that Time, may to little Purpose open his Book afterwards; when the Spirits are indisposed, or have taken another Turn.

The Truth is the Fellows of that College are no better than School-masters, tho' they may not perhaps like that Title: And from twenty School-masters what mighty Matter can the World expect? If they do their Duty well, they must, I believe, leave the

Prize of Knowledge to be contended for by other hands. It is unfair therefore to object to them the Figure that other Universities make in the learned World. What Equity is there in comparing them to *Oxford* or *Cambridge*, in either of which there are twenty or thirty Foundations, taking Colleges and Halls together: And some of them consisting of forty, fifty, sixty Fellows, unencumbered with Care or Business of any Kind. And yet were it material, one might find many of this College, and some of late, who have by their Works been thought to do Service to the Publick and Honour to themselves: But this having been generally done after they had left the College, rather than while they resided as Governours there, is to me an Argument, that they have found more Leisure in the World; and some even in greater Charges, than they had when Members of the College; tho' probably Men of that Turn, were not idle there.

But, Sir, after having considered the original Error of their Constitution, and some Objections that I have heard made against Part of their Discipline, it may perhaps be expected, I should take some Notice of the Faults, that have been found with, and the Blame that has been laid on the present Set of Fellows. For, in their late Season of Storms and Troubles, it cannot be supposed, that the Governours sat entirely at Ease, or escaped without Censure; on the contrary, it has been by many supposed and said, that their ill Conduct and their Faults, have been the Cause of every Thing that has gone amiss.

Be this so or not, in the Situation they are, they cannot well expect, but that they shall sometimes
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hear Complaints of this Kind. Some few Friends they may have from their personal Acquaintance; and perhaps from some little Regard to the Usefulness of their Constitution; and Enemies they must expect to find. All who have succeeded ill in the College themselves, all whose Friends have miscarried, Impartial Men, who think they deserve Blame; besides, all who are ill pleased with such Foundations; and some such there may be, (tho' I should hope in *Ireland* they are not yet a great Number :) Add to those the angry Men, who delight in finding Fault; and Those, often the loudest, who join in every Cry that is raised: Amongst all these, they who are guilty of Faults, will be sure to hear them; and if a Man were to be found without Faults, he might possibly have them made for him. But this, Sir, may be a Point not so proper to meddle in: The private Characters of Men, and especially in such a Station, ought not to be roughly dealt with: nor can any wise or good Man allow himself Liberties of this Kind. Thus much I suppose may be granted; that the Fellows of the College are Men like others; indeed they ought to be more particularly on their Guard, being in a Situation, where it is hard to please, and where every the least Thing they do will be sharply, and often severely observed: But after all they will be Men, and Errors there will be found after them.

Suppose you were to take Eighteen or Nineteen Clergymen of good Character you meet; add to them a Lawyer and a Physician, put them together, and make up a Corporation, such as the College is, and place five Hundred young Men under their Care; do you think that among so many Eyes as they shall have

have upon them, especially of Persons, whom they are often obliged to censure, not one shall be acute enough to spy out any Thing amiss? Among any Twenty Men, taken any where in a Rank; there will be some less discreet or prudent, or of a worse Temper than others; there will be some more strict or more severe: And these Qualities sometimes may pass for great Faults, at least they may excite more Hatred; though another Method of Proceeding may do more Harm. There may be some guilty of greater Faults than these: But change your Men, choose again and again; if you do not like Divines, take Lawyers, take them all Physicians; tie them to Profession; do you think you will at length arrive at your Point, and find out Twenty faultless Men? If you do, your Luck will be extraordinary: But you would have them as good, and as free from Fault as may be found; you are doubtless in the right. It is what every honest Man wishes heartily; but yet for my Part, I will never undertake for so great a Number. I am very ready to suppose, that among the Governours of the College, there may be some, who do not upon every Occasion, and in every Circumstance behave themselves with that Exactness, that were to be desired. I wish heartily all proper Methods were taken to amend this: But to encourage the universal Cry, that has been of late among them, is not I doubt the Way hereto. What the Means most proper to effect this, are, whether to erect a new College, to new-mold the present College, or to remove the Seat of it from this City, I will not take upon me to say: All these have been mentioned; but whether some of these Remedies may not be

rather too violent, for any Grievances complained of, to cautious Men, may perhaps be a Doubt.

In the mean Time, I will give you some of the particular Objections, which are made against the Fellows, and the Answers which their Friends generally make in their Defence.

It is objected to them, that they are negligent and very remiss in the Discharge of their College Duties, neither attending Prayers, nor Commons in the Hall, as frequently as they ought. As to their Lectures indeed both publick and private, I think it is universally allowed, that at no Time that one can remember, were they attended with more Diligence, nor did the Youth receive greater Benefit from them: This is a Point not inconsiderable, and is, I think, uncontested.

For the Article of Prayers, they have them thrice in the Day; short Prayers at Six, the Church Prayers at Ten and Four. To the first, they only, who are under the Degree of Master are obliged; but all are by the Statutes obliged to attend at Ten and Four; and punishable if absent. It is not material to say, that many of the best Friends to the College without its Walls do hold, that these Prayers are at very inconvenient Hours, and break in upon those of Study: As long as the Statutes enjoin them, they ought to be attended. And as the Provost is remarkably constant at them himself, and has it in his Power to oblige all others to follow his Example: I cannot think there are any extremely faulty in this Way; nor that the Remissness of the Fellows in this Point can be by any Means equal to what it has formerly been, in the Memory of some who are now in the Col-

College: And I am well informed, that in Fact it is not, that the Fellows are much misrepresented on this Score.

As to Commons it is indeed no direct Breach of the Statutes to be absent from them; as no Man is particularly enjoined to be there. Yet it certainly is of ill Consequence; because dining else where must waste much Time, which were far better laid out on attending to Study and College Duties. But I am assured, that in this Article Things are much better than they formerly were; that every Day several of the Fellows are present; and that in Term-time their Table is very well frequented, Commons never were attended as well as it were to be wished; nor does there seem to be any way of bringing them universally into Repute and Practice (since no Punishment can be inflicted for the Neglect of them,) unless perhaps by making it somewhat less inconvenient to eat there than at present it is. In Winter Time, a Man who is in a warm Room, with his Book in his Hand, had need of a very good Appetite to make him quit his Situation, for the Pleasure of passing an Hour at Dinner or Supper in a large and spacious Hall, flagged under Foot, open in a Manner at both Ends, never aired by Fire, and which (if not grown warmer since I knew it) is I believe the coldest Room in *Europe*. It is true young Men and Boys may do this without Danger, and yet I believe many among them avoid going into Commons, to escape the Inconveniencies of that Place. Nor is it enough to say, that it is safe, and that it may be practised without immediate Peril of Life: People naturally desire (and I believe there is no great Crime in Desiring) to be somewhat cleanly

cleanly and comfortable and warm at least at their Meals, be the rest of their Time never so hard. *Ploughmen, Soldiers, Sailors*, and even *Scythians* I believe are agreed in this Point. It is true, they who are constant there notwithstanding these Inconveniences, shewing a good Example to the Youth, and giving up their Time to the Service of the College, deserve the greater Praise. Yet it might not be amiss to cut off the Pretences and Excuses of those who neglect this, or the real Objections if any be in the way.

For the Allowance at Dinner, that of the Fellows is said to be very well, it being their great Meal, there is appointed them five Pence Half-penny a Head. Tho' I must own, I have often heard it complained of, that the Servants are neither so careful, nor cleanly in preparing it, as in all Reason they ought; which certainly tho' but a small Thing to mention, yet if true, ought to be set right; in as much as small Matters sometimes are of Consequences not to be despised. For their Supper, there is allowed the Fellows two Pence Farthing each, in the same comfortable Place and Manner; the same airy Hall to sit in, and indulge themselves after it as long as they think proper: Which is no doubt, a strong Inducement to them to pass their Evenings in the College, after the Business of the Day is over: And yet this in my Opinion were a Time as material to be provided for as any; and as much to be considered in an Academical Life. Were this Place tolerably convenient, or were any other appointed, where they might sit, and pass over an Hour or two of the Evening, they would not be under the Necessity of going to seek for Company abroad, or

of forming private Sets in their own Rooms. And possibly it might be worth the while of the Governours of the College to consider, Whether it would not be more convenient to permit some such publick Assemblies, not only of the Fellows and Masters, but also of the Scholars: Whether these might not be regulated in some Manner, so as to prevent in a great Measure their private Cabals in their Rooms, and many ill Consequences that necessarily arise from them. Men cannot be hindred from seeking Company, nor from keeping Company one with another; nor indeed is it easy to assign a Reason, why they should. But where they are suspected to delight too much in the Use of strong Liquors, which is the Crime I hear objected to the College, it may perhaps be more adviseable to let them meet in publick Companies than in private: The former may be regulated, the latter cannot; besides that in Publick a Man is much more on his Guard, and will be less inclined to Excess. If one could suppose a Father had 500 Sons in one House, and that he was heard to complain, he could not keep them in as good Order as he wished; that they were inclined to go too much abroad; that they often got together privately in their Chambers, and drank there sometimes to Excess, that they lived in general in a more expensive Way, than was prudent: One would be apt to enquire, what Encouragements he gave them to stay within the House, or to avoid irregular Meetings in private: Had they any Amusements, any innocent Methods contrived for them to pass over some of their heavy Hours in the Family; had they even a large Parlour, or two, with good Fires in them, where they might
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fit round, and chat or strole about at their Pleasure; where they might unbend their Spirits, and procure themselves Diversions, more cheap, more innocent, and more moderate, than they are like to do, when they meet in smaller Numbers, and in dark Corners by themselves. The Liveliness of young Men will easily find Diversions, and at a cheap Rate, and harmless, if they are permitted to be together: And of what Consequence would it not be to their future Lives, to accustom them, if it might be done, to any other Diversion, than that vile and stupid one of strong Drink, which is the almost necessary Attendant on their private Assemblies. If He said, that he had none of these, that such Things had not been usually allowed in his Family, and that he thought, they were too great Liberties to be granted to his Children; even to those, whom he had, for their Discretion, appointed to rule over the Younger: One might be apt to doubt, whether he judged the Matter entirely right, and whether a little reasonable Liberty would not prevent a great Deal of Licentiousness, and a great Number of Faults. Every one, I believe, will see, that this would be a very severe and inconvenient, and ill contrived Order to lay down in a private Family: Whether the Case of the College be exceedingly different, I leave to be considered.

Besides these two Faults I have mentioned, it has also been much objected to the Fellows, that they are luxurious, particularly in the Article of Wine; drinking it much in their Rooms, having Cellars to keep it in, and that it is better, and of a higher Price, and a more delicious Flavour, than it ought; to such a

Degree, as to give Offence to many, even to those, who are well disposed towards them.

To this their Friends answer many Things: They say with Regard to the Price, that if they did give 20 or 30 Shillings in a Hoghead more than others, as they are single, and live out of the Way of other Charge, as they do not drink it daily in their Chambers, they might perhaps on these Accounts, venture to make this extraordinary Expence, and this without giving any great Cause of Offence. But, having enquired into this Point, I have been assured, that the Fact is otherwise. They said, that the World dealt with them herein according to a very common, but very unfair Method, of fixing the Folly or Vanity of one Man upon the Body, to which he belongs: That there might perhaps have been one or two extraordinary Instances of this Kind many Years ago, but that generally their Wine is of the same Price with that of others. If they be curious in it, they said, that was at least no Sign they are greedy of it, for to such all Wine was welcome: That it might happen by a less daily Use of it in their Chambers, and by remaining longer on their Hands, it may without other Advantage, by its Age alone become better than Wine that had cost more. They said, that in the World it has been an old Observation, and had almost become a Proverb, that to be able to treat with very old Wine, was a Sign of having bad Custom, and giving it seldom; and was on that Account a Kind of Reproach; and that surely it was not fair Dealing to impute it to them as a Fault of a quite different Nature. That by this single Advantage one of the most temperate Men any where

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to be found, and the least solicitous about Meats and Drinks, had, not many Years since, on one or two publick Occasions, some of the best Wine perhaps in *Ireland*.

With Regard to the Drinking Wine in private Houses, it is certain, that the Custom of the World is very greatly changed within my Memory, and more still within these forty Years past. At that Time there was vastly less used in the Nation; (which was doubtless much better both on publick and private Accounts) and what was used, was to be had only in publick Houses, where every Body went to drink it. At that Time, a Cellar of Wine in the College, or even in a private Gentleman's House, would have been a very unusual and extraordinary Thing: But now Matters are every where much altered, especially with Regard to the Place of Drinking it: Possibly it may be for the worse, and yet such Difference there is in Opinion, that many hold it is for the better. At present all who drink Wine, do it in their own Houses, or those of their Friends, and yet are not supposed for this Reason alone to be the more intemperate herein. In Consequence of this, they provide themselves Places to preserve their Quantity of Wine safe and in good Condition. And if a Fellow of the College, computing that he and his Friends may use perhaps a Hogshead of Wine in the Year (which were he to drink it all himself, would be indeed a Pint and about one third of a Pint in the Day;) if I say he should provide himself a Place sufficient to hold two or three of them; which he may find it convenient to have in his Cellar all at once; they said they would
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hope, that to reasonable Judges this ought to yield no great Offence.

For their Intemperance in Point of Quantity, that I do not hear objected to them; altho' I believe among such a Number it needs not to be supposed, that every one has always been so much on his Guard, as not to have at some odd Time, have let down more Liquor than has done him Good. But for a general Matter of Complaint, I think the Suspicion of it has been long since removed.

As to Luxury in Point of Eating, I am assured, that among themselves they are by no Means guilty of it; and if they have erred this Way, with Regard to their Friends abroad, by giving better Dinners than became them, they have but committed that same Fault towards them, that we all have usually in the Goodness of our Hearts been guilty of, with Regard to our Friends from the other Side of the Water. But the Thanks and Compliments that have on each Occasion been passed upon the Hosts, will I suppose teach them more Wit for the future and prevent any Fault of this Kind.

And yet after all that has been said, it may possibly prove true, that the College is the Scene of more Eating and Drinking, than were to be wished; and in a Country, where these make up a great Part of the Business, and almost the whole Diversion of Life (to those, who have them in their Power,) it would not perhaps be easy to restrain the young Gentlemen in these Points. I have some Doubt whether all Parents would come heartily into any Scheme for abridging their Children in the free Use of Wine. One Man sending his Son to the College, appoints him a
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Wine-Merchant, with Orders to furnish the young Gentleman with what Wine he shall call for, and Exhortations to the Youth not to stint himself. Another promises His, and gives him a Hoghead of Wine, for succeeding well at an Examination: (what I say is Fact) A Third, and especially the indulgent Mother supplies her Son with more Money than he has need of; and the Overplus goes for Wine, or for any other Diversion he is more inclined to. Parents, Relations, Aunts, Cousins of all Kinds are not to be satisfied, without Visits now and then to their Friends in the College, where, with Meat ill dressed, with sour Wine, and worse Attendance, the Feast is more agreeable, than it could have been elsewhere. By these Means, and possibly also by these Persons, the College is afterwards reproached, as a Place of Luxury, Intemperance, Debauchery, and Excess of all Kinds. The College consists in a much greater Proportion of Scholars, than it does of Fellows; and if their Parents will fully set them astray, it is not in the Power of Man to hinder it.

The two next Objections I shall mention, are of Kinds quite opposite one to the other: It is said, that the Fellows are too much in Company with the Scholars in Private, and enter into too great Familiarities with them; and on the other Hand, that they are haughty, and insolent, and overbearing, and do not treat Gentlemen with that Condescension, and good Manners they ought.

I need not tell you, that the Fellows of the College have a difficult Part to act; they always had, and there certainly is no Prejudice of the World at present in their Favour, to make their Part more easy than

than it was wont. They are to please the World abroad, and to please the Youth in the College, neither of whom perhaps is it easy to satisfy; and what is said by either to the Prejudice of the Fellows, the other is well disposed to believe. As for the Behaviour that Preceptors ought to use towards the Youth under their Care, I hardly ever have heard this Point discussed in Company, but the Opinions have been generally divided; and as the Fellows of the College had the Misfortune to be in a Kind of publick Disgrace of late, it is not to be doubted, their Behaviour, whatever it be, will be often condemned. I think it is generally concluded, that tho' they give themselves other Airs, yet they are in Fact but a Kind of School-Masters: They indeed have not the Power of the Rod, nor any other equivalent to it; and therefore it is very possible, they may be willing to maintain some Sort of Authority, by a certain Distance in Behaviour, which those, who are ill inclined to them may disapprove, and call Haughtiness and Pride. But if it be possible, that others may thus think of it, what must they think of it, who are subject to it? For you may imagine, that while the World look upon them, but as School-Masters, the young Gentlemen at present would take it very ill, that they should be considered as School-Boys. What is to be done in this difficult Case? What Part can an honest well meaning Man take to avoid giving Offence? I know none, but to go on his Way and do his Duty, and let People find Fault, since there is no Way to avoid it. For my Part, I pity those whose Fortune it is to deal in the Instruction of Youth, whatsoever be their Dispositions. As to the Point in
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Hand, I doubt whether the young Gentry, whatever they may think, are all of them competent Judges of what is right or wrong in their Tutours Behaviour toward them; and yet I take for granted, that it is chiefly on their Judgment, and probably that of the worst Judges among them, that this Sentence is passed against the Fellows. The Tutour, I suppose, looks on his Pupil as a young Lad just come from School, and entring on a new Course of Studies; and therefore treats him without much Ceremony; advises, directs, reproves him, as Occasion offers, with Freedom; and possibly sometimes he may be obliged to do it with some Severity. The young Man considers himself in quite another Light; fancies he is no longer to be kept under, or brow-beaten, as at School; that being a Gownsmen, he is somewhat considerable, and therefore may expect to be treated with some Degree of Distinction. And I have been sometimes present at Accounts given by a favourite Son to his Father, and his indulgent Mother; wherein, tho' to me there appeared no great Matter of Complaint, yet they could not enough express their Surprise or Resentment, that such Freedoms were allowed to be taken with the Children of Gentlemen.

As for the other Fault of entring into Familiarities with them, one does not well know what to make of it: One would naturally imagine, that if Haughtiness and Pride were a Fault, the admitting them to some Degree of Familiarity were none. But it seems this College is a very unfortunate Place,
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where they can run into all the Extremes, where Faults are to be found, and never hit upon any of the Virtues that lie between them. We are therefore by this Account, to condemn all Kind of Company-keeping with the Scholars: A Man must not sit an Evening with a young Gentleman, whom he would countenance for his good Behaviour, or reclaim from an ill Course, but he must be thought guilty of indiscreet Familiarities with the Scholars. Were *Socrates* to come again upon Earth, and converse with our Youth in the College, as he did with the *Athenian*, he would again be condemned; and he would be condemned, not for corrupting, but barely for keeping them Company. Such is the Reasoning of some at present, I doubt you will not think it intirely right: But if it were, this is not a Fault imputed to many amongst them, and therefore ought not to be esteemed the Cause of any very extraordinary Mischief, and certainly no sufficient Cause of their Riots.

Great Fault also is found with the College on Account of their pecuniary Punishments: which, as they do not always come out of the young Man's own Purse, it is supposed have not that Effect on Him, towards amending his Faults, which were to be wished. It is imagined that some others might influence him more, and it is therefore by some suspected that these are preferred, and continued for Reasons that are not altogether so Praise worthy. In answer hereto, the Friends of the Fellows do alledge, that in other Universities, pecuniary Punishments are usual; and in some much esteemed, and particular
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in *Glasgow*, are at least as high as ever they have been here: That their Statutes (in this College of *Dublin*) do appoint them, and that therefore the Fellows are warranted in the use of them: that they have always been, and are no Novelty introduced of late: that the Amount of them goes to the publick Service of the College; as Repairs, Buildings, Improvements of all Kinds, and does not turn to the private Advantage of the Fellows; that however they are not pleasing to them, for that they have some Years ago shewn their Dislike of them, in a Way that ought to ease them of any Blame on this Score. Reflecting that to some Youths a good Exercise would be a heavier Punishment than a Fine, they did appoint a particular Officer for this Purpose: To change Fines into Exercises, and to take Care that they were well and punctually performed. That as to the Effect of Fines toward reforming the Scholars, some of these, who live on settled Allowances, do feel them go out of their own Purse, and ought therefore to be influenced by them. That for others, it is the only Method, whereby the Parent may regularly become acquainted with his Son's Behaviour, and Attendance on College Discipline: He may, if he please, have his Son's Note sent directly to himself every Quarter, wherein the Punishments make a separate Article; and he may thereby judge with certainty how diligent or remiss he is about his College Duties.

You have perceived Sir, long since, that in the Questions at present moved about the College, I incline to their Side; and you may possibly imagine, that

his Inclination is the Cause of my going so particularly thro' many Things, that I have mentioned, rather than the Effect of an impartial Examination first calmly made. I may possibly deceive my self, but I would not willingly deceive you. I own at present, I do think the College is somewhat hardly treated; and it is not impossible, but that Clamour, which appears to me too strong on one Side, may have made me lean a little on the other; yet if it has, I am not sensible of it, and I did endeavour to examine fully, and to judge fairly, and to represent right, as far as I thought it by any Means proper for a private Man to meddle in a publick Affair. In Order to this, I have enquired minutely of all my Acquaintances, and I think I may affirm, that I am well informed of the present State of the College. I also procured a Copy of the Statutes, and I have read them over with Care: For this also had been an Objection made to the Fellows, that they in many Cases had overlooked them, and even acted contrary to them: And a great Blustering was for some Time made by some of the more forward Youths, who threatned to have them printed, in Order to convince the World, how ill they were observed by the Fellows. But for this Imputation, I have found little Cause; and I am surpris'd, the Fellows have not themselves caus'd them to be published, in Order to justify their Conduct against so bold a Scandal. This Disappointment however, where I expected to have found so many Things to blame, has somewhat reconciled me to them: The unreasonable Hatred also

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so conceived and expressed on every Occasion, and the Liberty every Man takes, whether he be considerable or not, both with the Governours, and with the Foundation, have a little indisposed me towards these Proceedings.

I find my self in this Particular differently formed from a great Part of Mankind; possibly it may be a Fault in my Constitution; but I am not by the Commonness of the Practice, encouraged to join in every Cry that is raised against particular Men; on the contrary, where I see one fallen on unreasonably, I find my self rather disposed to become his Friend, and to lend him my Assistance; and I wish I were able to do it as much, and as often as I am inclined. In the present Case all I can do, is to venture to profess, that tho' I do not believe the Governours of the College are free from Fault, yet do I not think, they deserve all that Noise, which has been so loud against them of late, or more than any other Set at other Times have usually deserved. I do believe many of the present Fellows, the far greater Number, are of such Kind, as Fellows formerly were; giving as little reasonable Cause for Scandal; as capable of governing the College, as able to instruct the Youth, and much more diligent therein, than when I knew the College; that the Youth are as well taught and make greater Advances generally than they did. *That they are as well governed, or as governable,* this I cannot say, and I think I have shewn it is not to be expected they should. But if they become still less manageable, even than they have been of late, I should

should imagine it were not much to be wondered at, considering the Pains that have been taken to lessen, and to render contemptible in the Eyes of the Youth, those, who are to direct them; and who are destitute of all other Methods to perform this, except the bare Name of Authority, together with the Respect and Esteem, they may have with them. How prudent this may be with Regard to the future Discipline of the University, or the Education of the Youth therein, or even the Subsistence of any College amongst us; or the Welfare of a Country sufficiently exhausted, and yet more drained every Day, or any otherwise, and good Motive, I leave to you to consider.

You cannot but know the Cause given to some Gentlemen, on Occasion of a late Tryal and Indictment for Murder, to raise and to prosecute this Clamour; for which their Danger may with many be their Excuse: (For I suppose even they must own, there were certain untoward Suspicions against them.) If I found myself in Peril of drowning, I might perhaps attempt to save my Life, by any Means next at Hand, and in my Fright might happen not to consider, into what Danger I thrust those about me: Or, if I saw my Child or my Friend in like Case, I might possibly ride over a Dozen or Twenty Men in my Way to save him, without reflecting on what I did. But the Danger being over, and my Friends in Safety, sure it would be odd I should insist, that all I had maimed, or wounded in my Way, had received no Damage at my Hands. Were I on the contrary to cry out, that I had herein done a Service to the Publick; that

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that I had but trampled under Foot a Set of good for nothing Fellows, who were a Nuisance to the Publick, who were not fit to live in the World, but ought all to have been hanged out of the Way; certainly this would be carrying the Thing farther than Reason or Justice, or any fair Motive could suggest. This, one would imagine, could proceed from no other Cause, than a severe, and deep rooted Hatred conceived against them: The true Cause of which, perhaps it would not be so agreeable to explain.

But it is said the People of the College, brought this on themselves, by their Manner of carrying on this Prosecution. And would any Man have advised, that this Prosecution should not have been undertaken? Would you, Sir, the College having lost one of their Fellows in that Manner, would you have recommended to them, not to have his Death enquired into? When Suspicions had appeared against particular Gentlemen, would you have advised the Fellows, not to have them examined, but rather to sit down, as little inquisitive about his Blood, as one would be for that of a House-Breaker or a publick Robber? Sure, Sir, no Man who had wished them well could have recommended this to them; but rather, if he had seen them so inclined, would have used all Arguments to turn them from such a Resolution. Neither Justice nor Honour, nor Christianity require, nor indeed permit it. When the Land is defiled with Blood, Inquisition ought to be made for it; this is what every honest Motive, whether publick or private, demands. And if there are any good and well disposed Men, who
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thought otherwise, it is well for the World in general, that all Governours are not of their Mind. If they were, Civil Societies would soon become Mischiefs not to be endured. Had their Body taken this Resolution, they might justly have deserved the Treatment they have received. The Task of carrying on the Prosecution, was a vexatious, as well as an invidious one: Every one must, I believe, have seen the Hatred it would expose him to; and it is natural to suppose, that every one, however satisfied it was a Thing necessary, was yet willing to Shift it off from himself. But since the Thing was unavoidable, was even commendable, (if that can deserve to be commended, which it would have been odious and unaccountable to have omitted :) What Justice, or what Candour must they possess, who take this for a Pretence, or use it for an Opportunity to raise a Hatred against the College.

Yet this it was, that opened the Door of Clamour against the Rulers of the College; in which Debate almost every Tongue was employed against them, and very few inclined to move in their Defence; (what Reason there was for it, and on whose Side any Blame ought to lie in the Management of this Affair, I may perhaps take some other Opportunity to give you a particular and distinct Account.) The young Gentlemen, many of them making it injudiciously a Party-Affair between Fellows and Scholars, and thinking themselves obliged to go any Lengths in Defence of their Friends, (for so they of their own Body were naturally esteemed :) Parents of all Degrees being al-

alarmed for the Safety of their Children; and de-
 claiming against it, as a Thing unnatural, that their
 Tutours and Guardians should on any Account what-
 soever encourage a Prosecution; the Ladies especial-
 ly astonished at the Barbarity of undertaking so cru-
 el a Persecution against the Sons of Gentlemen, sus-
 pected only of a Frolick, in which they intended no
 more than breaking a Man's Window, tho' it chan-
 ced indeed to end in his Death. Some even wise and
 upright People advancing, that the Loss was over,
 and not to be retrieved; and what would signify an
 odious Prosecution, which would never restore the
 Deceased to Life, nor recover to the College their
 Member, which they had lost, and which also must
 expose the Remainder to a plentiful Measure of
 Hatred and ill Will; and some even maintaining,
 that they were all a Pack of People so utterly un-
 sufferable on every Account, that it was by no Means
 to be wondered at, that such an Accident had hap-
 pened among them. In many Companies where I
 was present, while the Warmth of this Debate lasted,
 I could not but fancy, the Question was not, whether
 the Killing Mr. *Ford* was a Fault; but rather if it
 were not adviseable, the young Gentleman should pro-
 ceed, and put Half a Dozen more of the Fellows
 out of the Way: At least, whether it would not be
 proper, that every Twelvemonth the College should
 be refreshed with some new Discipline of this Kind.

But I hope this is now over: I wish the ill Effects
 of it, and the Spirit it may have raised in young
 Gentlemen of a certain Turn, were as easily laid:

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But they also may pass away more easily than was apprehended. I am informed, many of their Youths have returned to a Sense of their Duty, and express a Concern for the Honour and Reputation of the College.

You will not expect of me, Sir, that I should propose Remedies for any Evils that are among them; this was no Part of my Business or Design: Nor am I acquainted with any great Evils they labour under, for which Remedies can properly be mentioned, other than the original Errour of their Constitution, and the Consequences of it, which, I suppose cannot conveniently be removed. Men, whose happy Turn of Mind leads them to hunt after, and discover the Faults and Follies of others, may perhaps produce Instances of these among them, and may fancy they could find Errours and Neglects in the Administration of their Affairs. But this I doubt will be the Case in every Society, wherein you can place your Son, for his Education or Improvement. This, Sir, was the main Point, that I was to consider: every Thing else that came in my Way, was so far only to be enquired into, as it had Regard to that.

If I have therefore seemed to have gone out of my Road, and to have said any Thing, that appears to have been intended, only as an Apology for the Fellows of the College. I am, Sir, to ask your Pardon for my Impertinence; for this was not my Intention, farther than as it belonged to the Point abovementioned.

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Your Difficulty lay here; to send a Youth into a College, subject to such Disorders and Riots, appeared to be Placing him under Governours, who are unequal to their Offices, unable to govern, and therefore to instruct; and also among Companions, who being unruly and unrestrained, will probably corrupt those, with whom they converse: And this was what I was to consider. What I have to answer to it, is this: Were the Governours of this College on the same Footing in Point of Power, with other Universities, and corporate Bodies, the Objection would to me be unanswerable: As they are not on an equal Footing, I see no Kind of Necessity to suppose, they are less skilled in the Art of Governing, or Instructing; or that the Youth under their Direction, are in their Temper more unruly, or licentious than others. Wherever you shall think fit to send your Son, I imagine, he will meet with Fellows, and with Fellow-Students of Dispositions much like to those in *Dublin*. Wherever there are Numbers of young Men together, there will undoubtedly be some wild, and stubborn and intractable, by all Methods of Reason and Persuasion. But here will be a Difference; where there is Civil Power in skilful Hands, they will however be restrained; where there is no Civil Power, they will sometimes prevail and their Governours driven before them. Your Son therefore, if he goes to this College, may sometimes be a Spectator of such a Scene; but he, as well as many others of the more reasonable young Men there, will, I hope,

receive no other Inconvenience, than the Disagreeableness of the Sight; the Damage falling only on the Rulers. This will not hinder, but that he may find as good Preceptors; he may meet as many Examples of Virtue and Merit of every Kind among the young Gentlemen: he may make as valuable Friendships, and go thro' his Education as well there, as elsewhere. He may indeed now and then see the Scene changed, the Government turned topside down, and be diverted with a Farce of that Kind; but what great Inconvenience is this? When the Gambols have lasted three or four Days, a Calm is generally restored: It is not often, that any great Mischief is committed, and afterwards Things go on again in their usual Course.

The Inconveniences of sending your Son abroad, are in my Judgment much greater, considering the afflicted State of this Country, on Account of the Numbers, who spend their Lives and Fortunes out of it; and I doubt not, they will have more Weight with those, who like you, have some Regard to that publick Interest, with which your own will always be united. It is a strong Temptation to the remaining always in a Country, to have therein the Companions, with whom we have passed the agreeable Hours of Youth and Study: It is a Temptation, which, added to the other Advantages *England* has over us, I should not willingly give a Son of mine, had I three or four Thousand Pounds a Year to leave him, which he might draw into another Kingdom.

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Besides all that I have said, I am not without Hopes of seeing more peaceable Times in our College. What encourages me chiefly to hope this, is, that I am informed, the Scholars of the House have at length been made sensible, that the Oaths they take to the College, are not merely Matter of Ceremony, but do really lay them under some Obligation. *Ireland* has long lain under Reproach upon this Article: And that young Men of good Dispositions, and a liberal Education, should so long, and so obstinately disregard such solemn Ties, would make one imagine, there was really some unconquerable Antipathy between an *Irishman*, and the Observation of an Oath.

The Scholars of the House are Seventy in Number, they all enjoy good Allowances, and Thirty of them have considerable Appointments from the College. They all swear expressly, and in clear Words, to hinder all Conspiracies, as far as they are able; to reveal them, if they come to their Knowledge; and to obey the Provost in all Things lawful and honest.

It is therefore to be hoped, that they, as well as the Fellows, will be vigilant and industrious for the future in all Occasions, where the Peace and Welfare of their College may require their Assistance: It is not to be conceived, that they will expose themselves to the Suspicion, much less to the Guilt of Perjury, for the Sake of any Diversion, or of any Advantage, they can propose to themselves by a Riot: And in a College, where there are Seventy young Men, thus attached to the Interests of Peace, and using all their
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Abilities to discountenance and present Rebellions; it is not to be apprehended, that such Mischiefs will again be frequent

You easily see then, Sir, what my Advice is, that your Son take his Chance in his own Country: His Birth, his Fortune, and chiefly his Understanding, will, I believe, distinguish him in any Society; and yet, if I do not much mistake him, he will never plead any of these Distinctions as an Excuse for Irregularity of any Kind. I am, Sir, with all Respect and Submission,

Your most Obedient Servant.



